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Select Essays in Anglo-American Legal History. Volume II. (Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1898. Pp. 823.)

The first volume of these essays was noticed in the May, 1908, issue of this REVIEW. Occasion was then taken to point out the general aim of the committee of the Association of American Law Schools in compiling and editing these volumes, and to predict that the undertaking would be received with gratitude by teachers and students of Anglo-American law. The essays in the first volume were of the nature of general surveys. In the present volume the history of particular topics is begun. Five essays beginning with an English translation by Prof. Ernst Freund Brunner's well known "Ueberblick über die Geschichte der französischen, normannischen, und englischen Rechtsquellen," are devoted to the sources. Four essays deal with organization and jurisdiction of the courts; ten with procedure, and six with equity. The discriminating care with which these studies have been selected for collective republication is as evident in this as in the earlier volume.

Historical and Political Essays. By WILLIAM EDWARD HARTPOLE LECKY. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1908. Pp. 324.)

The collection of publications in book form of the historical and political essays of W. E. H. Lecky will be welcomed by all lovers of serious literature. Mr. Lecky was at once an historian, a moralist and a thoughtful student of politics, and in each of his essays, whatever their subjects, these characteristics are manifested. Sincerity, moral earnestness, impartiality—except, possibly, with reference to the Irish Home Rule question—and keenness of political insight are displayed. The two opening essays, *Thoughts on History* and *the Political Value of History*, are of especial interest to the historian. From the latter of these the reviewer, despite his limitations of space, cannot forbear quoting a considerable passage, so characteristic is it of Mr. Lecky's quality of mind. Speaking of the great permanent forces that are steadily bearing nations onwards to improvement or decay, he says: "The strongest of these forces are the moral ones. Mistakes in statesmanship, military triumphs or disaster, no doubt offset materially the prosperity of nations, but their permanent political well-being is essentially the outcome of their moral state. Its foundation is laid in pure domestic life, in commercial integrity, in a high standard of moral worth

and of public spirit; in simple habits, in sacrifice, uprightness and self-sacrifice, in a certain soundness and moderation of judgment, which springs as much from character as from intellect. If you would form a wise judgment of the future of a nation, observe carefully whether these qualities are increasing or decaying. Observe especially what count for most in public life. Is character becoming of greater or less importance? Are the men who obtain the highest posts in the nation men of whom in private life and irrespective of party competent judges speak with genuine respect? Are they men of sincere convictions, sound judgment, consistent lives, indisputable integrity, or are they men who have won their positions by the arts of a demagogue or an intriguer; men of nimble tongues and not earnest beliefs—skillful above all things, in spreading their sails to each passing breeze of popularity? Such considerations as these are apt to be forgotten in the fierce excitement of a party contest; but if history has any meaning, it is such considerations that affect most vitally the permanent well-being of communities, and it is by observing this moral current that you can best cast the horoscope of a nation.”

Several of the essays are biographical, dealing with Carlyle, Madame de Stael, Peel, Lord Derby, and Henry Reeve; and one entitled *Formative Influences* is, in a way, autobiographical. The other essays deal with the Empire: its Value and Growth, Ireland in the Light of History, Old-Age Pensions, Israel Among the Nations, and Queen Victoria as a Moral Force. In this last not only the moral but the important political influence exerted by the Queen as a constitutional monarch is dwelt upon.

The Government of England. By A. LAWRENCE LOWELL. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1908. Two volumes. Pp. xv, 570; viii, 563.)

There was an obvious need for Mr. Lowell's *The Government of England*: and if inclusiveness, accuracy of statement, clear and sympathetic understanding of English political traditions, ideas and conditions, and also readableness in an eminent degree, make for a successful book, Mr. Lowell's two volumes must fill this obvious need for some years to come. There are internal evidences (as for instance, vol. ii, p. 363) that Mr. Lowell intended his work to serve for the Anglo-Saxon peoples on both sides of the Atlantic; and in this aim he has also been singularly success-